

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 RSC-01 /020 W

----- 116466

R 100800Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 799

INFO AMEMBASSY LUBUMBASHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP CG

SUBJ: GECAMINES EXPANSION

REF: KINSHASA 10634

1. WHEN I INQUIRED OF BISENGIMANA JAN 9 AS TO WHY UMBA HAD NOT CONTACTED PARSONS JURDEN WHILE IN STATES IN DEC, HE SEEMED TO ME TO FEIGN SURPRISE. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN UMBA SEVERAL DAYS AGO AND HAD "FORGOTTEN" TO INQUIRE RE STATUS PROJECT MANAGER. I PRESSED, SAYING GECAMINES TOLD US THEY WOULD MANAGE PROJECT THEMSELVES, BUT AS HE KNEW, USG HAD DOUBTS ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF THAT. IN ANY CASE, COULDN'T WE STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH AND GET CLEAR ANSWERS--WHICH WE HAD THOUGHT WE HAD EARLIER FROM HIM.

2. HE SAID MAYBE GECAMINES COULD DO IT--BUT THEN AGAIN MAYBE THEY COULDN'T. I HAD TO REALIZE, HE SAID, HE DID NOT FOLLOW SUCH MATTERS OF DETAIL CLOSELY BUT HE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR CLARIFICATION AND HE WOULD PURSUE MATTER. HE THEREUPON PICKED UP PHONE AND ASKED FOR ZOLA WHO, WHILE NOW HEAD OF SOZACOM, ZAIRE COPPER MARKETING AGENCY, APPARENTLY CONTINUES TO FOLLOW COPPER GENERALLY FOR PRESIDENCY. ZOLA, NEEDLESS TO SAY, WAS UNAVAILABLE.

3. NOT HAVING GOTTEN VERY FAR ON THAT ONE, I ASKED WHAT BISENGIMANA'S REACTION HAD BEEN TO PARSONS JURDEN'S LONG LETTER OF NOV 26 CONCERNING ITS POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO STUDY BUREAU. BISENGIMANA TOOK COPY OF LETTER I HAD WITH ME, SAID HE'D NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE, WONDERED WHY NOT, AND SAID HE'D LET ME KNOW HIS VIEWS AFTER HE

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READ IT.

4. ALL IN ALL, THIS IS CERTAINLY LESS PROMISING THAN WE HAD BEEN
LED TO BELIEVE BUT ON OTHER HAND, BISENGIMANA REALLY HAS BEEN
OVERWHELMED, FIRST BY FAR EASTERN TRIP AND MORE RECENTLY BY PROGRAM
TO "RADICALZE REVOLUTION" AND REORGANIZE GOVT. ALSO, IT SEEMS
QUITE LIKELY THAT FINANCIAL CRISIS, DIMENSIONS OF WHICH BECAME
APPARENT AFTER OCT 27 KINCAID/BISENGIMANA MEETING, HAS DULLED
GOZ'S APPETITE FOR NEW FOREIGN CONTRCTS.

5. ACTION: DEPT INFORM KINCAID OF SUBSTANCE.
HINTON

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